

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 231342Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4403
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLOSACLA NORFOLK VA

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BRUSSELS ALSO USEEC; PARIS ALSO USOEC
DEPT FOR EUR/RPM; EUR/RPE:SWARTZ

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: EFIS, NATO, UR, NAC
SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON SOVIET
FISHING FLEET

REF: (A)USNATO 5229(NOTAL)(DTG 131637Z JUN 77)
(B)USNATO 5387(NOTAL)(DTG 151825Z JUN 77)
(C)STATE 143901(NOTAL) (DTG211940Z JUN 77)
(D) C-M(77)39

SUMMARY: AT ITS JUNE 22 MEETING, NAC DISCUSSED AND
NOTED REPORT ON THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET (C-M(77)39).
END SUMMARY.

1. IN INTRODUCING SOVIET FISHING FLEET ITEM (REF D)
OF JUNE 22 COUNCIL AGENDA, SYG LUNS NOTED
THAT AS A RESULT OF THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES, THE
SOVIET FISHING FLEETS MIGHT MOVE TO NEW GROUNDS LIKE
THE COASTS OF AFRICA, INDIA AND SOUTH AMERICA, WHICH
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ARE VITAL SUPPLY LINES OF ALLIED COUNTRIES. THIS
POSSIBILITY, ALONG WITH THE FISHING FLEET'S POTENTIAL
TO PERFORM INTELLIGENCE AND MILITARY FUNCTIONS, CALLED
FOR CAREFUL MONITORING. LUNS ALSO CALLED ATTENTION
TO THE EC-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS ON A FISHING AGREEMENT.
THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD AMOUNT
TO DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF THE EC BY THE USSR.

2. PERMREPS GENERALLY PRAISED THE REPORT FOR ITS HIGH QUALITY AND COMPREHENSIVE NATURE. HARTOOGH (NETHERLANDS) REPORTED THAT THE INTERIM EC-SOVIET AGREEMENT HAD CUT THE SOVIET CATCH IN THE EC'S ECONOMIC ZONE BY HALF, BUT THE SOVIETS WERE APPARENTLY OBSERVING QUOTAS AND NOT OPPOSING THE AGREEMENT, PERHAPS INrecognition OF THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION. KILICK (UK) WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE COMPLYING WITH THE AGREEMENT BECAUSE HE BELIEVE THEY RECOGNIZED HOW IMPORTANT FISH WAS TO THEM AS A PROTEIN SOURCE. HARTOOGH ALSO SPECULATED THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT ATTEMPT INCREASED HIGH-SEA FISHING. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BILLY, HOWEVER, LATER STATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE SOVIETS WERE MORE LIKELY TO ENGAGE IN COASTAL FISHING, ESPECIALLY ALONG THE AFRICAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN COASTS, BECAUSE THIS WAS WHERE FISH WERE TO BE FOUND - RATHER THAN ON HIGH SEAS.

3. VIBE (NORWAY) REPORTED THAT IN SPITE OF RECENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR, NO AGREEMENT HAD YET BEEN REACHED ON THE DELIMITATION OF SOVIET AND NORWEGIAN AREAS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE BARENTS SEA. NORWAY AND THE USSR WERE, HOWEVER, ACTIVELY SEEKING A PRACTICAL, CLEARLY TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT. A DRAFT

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ONE-YEAR INTERIM AGREEMENT WAS WORKED OUT IN MOSCOW LAST WEEK. IT WAS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION IN OSLO AND VIBE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO BRIEF NAC SOON ON DETAILS. ONE PROVISION OF THE AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, ALLOWS EITHER PARTY TO GRANT FISHING LICENSES TO THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE "GRAY ZONE" WITHOUT THE OTHER PARTY HAVING VETO PRIVILEGES.

4. SCHUURMANS (BELGIUM) SUGGESTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC ZONES GAVE THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THE CHANCE TO LIMIT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN EC WATERS. EC COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GRANT NO PRIVILEGES TO THE USSR WITHOUT CLEAR RECIPROCITY.

5. KILICK, REFERRING TO PARAGRAPH 61 OF REF D, POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES FOR CONFLICT OVER FISHING RIGHTS IN THE THIRD WORLD. SOME THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES MIGHT SEEK FROM THE USSR NOT ONLY ECONOMIC AID IN DEVELOPING THEIR FISHING INDUSTRIES, BUT HELP IN POLICING THEIR ZONES. OTHERS MIGHT WANT TO LIMIT SOVIET FISHING IN THEIR ZONES AND REQUEST WESTERN ASSISTANCE IN POLICING.

KILLICK ALSO WELCOME THE PROPOSED NOVEMBER
ECONADS EXPERTS MEETING ON THE SOVIET MERCHANT
NAVY AND FISHING FLEET.

6. PAULS (FRG) SUGGESTED THAT THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE
COMPILE DATA ON THE FISHING TECHNIQUES OF THE SOVIET
FLEETS. SOME OF ITS METHODS, LIKE THE USE OF
NARROW-MESH NETS OR SUCTION HARVESTING WERE IN
CONTRAVIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW OR PRACTICE.
LUNS SAID THAT SUCH A PAPER FELL MORE WITHIN THE
PURVIEW OF THE EC, BUT SINCE THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE

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AND EC WORKED CLOSELY TOGETHER, SUCH INFORMATION COULD
BE EXCHANGED.

7. REFERRING TO PARA 57 AND FOOTNOTE D OF REF D
KIRCA (TURKEY) SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE USSR HAD DECLARED
A 200 MILE FISHING ZONE, IT HAD NOT YET PROMULGATED
DECREES OF IMPLEMENTATION IN REGARD TO THE BLACK SEA.
THIS SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE USSR WAS AWARE THAT
IN NARROW BODIES LIKE THE BLACK SEA, ONE NATION
CANNOT UNILATERALLY IMPLEMENT CONTROLS. NEGOTIATIONS
WITH NEIGHBORING STATES WERE NECESSARY.

8. STREATOR (US) COMMENTED ALONG LINES OF REFS A AND
B AND, RESPONDING TO PAULS, POINTED OUT THAT US/SOVIET
GIFA AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS PROVIDED FOR
OBSERVERS ABOARD SOVIET FISHING SHIPS IN THE U.S.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT ZONE.

9. NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ZEINER GUNDERSEN
NOTED THAT MILITARY ASPECTS OF SOVIET MARITIME
ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING FISHERIES, WERE COVERED IN DOCUMENT
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MC 161-77. AT THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REQUEST,
HE HAD PROVIDED MC COMMENTS ON THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS
OF THE 200-MILE FISHING/ECONOMIC ZONES AND THESE
SUPPORTED THE CONCLUSIONS IN C-M(77)39. WHILE SOVIET
SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES WILL PROBABLY DECREASE IN THE
200-MILE ZONES OF ALLIED COUNTRIES, THE MC FEELS THEY
ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE ELSEWHERE.

10. CHAIRMAN BILLY CONCLUDED DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL
OBSERVATIONS, INCLUDING COMMENT THAT SOME LDC'S
WHO HAVE SIGNED FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR
WERE NOT HAPPY WITH SOVIET IMPLEMENTATION. GUINEA-BISSAU,
FOR INSTANCE, HAD COMPLAINED THAT THE USSR WAS NOT
PROVIDING THE AGREED TECHNICAL TRAINING. HE ALSO BRIEFED
NAC ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF EC-SOVIET FISHING NEGO-
TIATIONS AND HIGHLIGHTED THE EC'S INTENTION TO REQUIRE
FISHING SHIPS IN ITS ZONE TO INFORM CONTROL CENTERS
OF THEIR POSITIONS TWICE WEEKLY. THIS WILL FACILITATE
SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL. BILLY ASSURED NAC
THAT ECONADS WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SOVIET FISHING
FLEET DEVELOPMENTS. STREATROR

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